

## [Mrs. Lon Story]

ES S-241-LI DUP

### Form A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R#1 box 10-B-1 W Front

DATE Sept. 29, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. NAME and address of informant— Mrs. Lon Story
2. Date and time of interview—— Sept 27, 1938.
3. Place of interview— Maxwell, Nebr. Her own home.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings etc.,- Ordinary comfortable, spreading house of many open rooms, seemingly, cheerful and inviting and a bit disordered with her grandchildren, who are temporarily living with their grandmother. C15 - Nebr.

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R#1 box 10-B 1-W Front

DATE Sept. 29, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Lon Story.

## Library of Congress

1. Ancestry— of many bloods, considerable Scotch and English.
2. Place and date of birth—1875, Rockford, Ill.
3. Family— 8 children
4. Place lived in, with dates— Rockford, Ill., Kearney, Nebr and Maxwell, Nebr.
5. Education, with dates.— fair, unstandardized and most of it obtained at home.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates— Housewife, mother, and community mainstay.
7. Special skills and interests — Her children, grandchildren and husband, household and community.
8. Community and religious activities— Many relating to church and welfare and neighbors.
9. Description of informant— Short-5-4 almost white hair, merry blue eyes and a surprising
10. Other points gained in interview.

FORM C Text of Interview (unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Ruby W. Wilson ADDRESS R#1 Box 10-B-1 W Front

DATE Sept. 29, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Lou Story, Maxwell, Nebr.

## Library of Congress

The community had a lot more money in the early days that I first knew anything about, every body could raise their own garden and there was always meat both the wild and the beef, we had chickens and eggs and there was always something to eat.

My father came from Philadelphia and my mother from Hamilton N.J.

My father had been a carriage trimmer in the east and in New Jersey at Camden. He had been a shop foreman but he could make more money at piece work so he resigned from his foreman job and did piece work. Once he trimmed a carriage in white satin. It was shipped to Australia and sold for \$1000. He trimmed two in white satin, that he told me about. He was working for Chas Caffery then. The panic of '73 was so hard on the business that, all of the workers were released but the foreman.

So then my father moved to Illinois. There 5 children were [born?] then because advertisements of this country painted such rosy pictures of it my folks came here to get rich quick. Some of my mothers sisters also came to Nebraska and were in the new settlement. My mother never had been on a farm a day in her life, nor had my father, but mother never was as homesick here as she had been in Illinois.

My people settled on a homestead next to the Fort farm. The fort had been closed down and the land opened to home steading and a little settlement had been formed around there, all this had taken place about

2

FORM C CON't

2 years before we came there in 1879. F't Kearney was three years old.

School was held in a back room of our house. We children didn't attend school. My mother helped the school teacher, she was just a young girl, mother had been a school teacher in the east and she could teach us faster, herself.

## Library of Congress

Later a frame school house was built, my father was a director of the school board and he got the lumber for the new school. Mother and I had gone to town with [him?] and we rode out on the first load of lumber for the new school building. There had been sod school buildings too.

We didn't have drouths so bad, the prairie was covered with water most of the time. Since theyre captured so much water in the west we have drouths down here.

The river was never dry but once and that was in the early 90's, they asked an old lady who had been there for years, she had been the wife of Major Talbott of Ft. Kearney if she had ever known of the river being dry and she said once long ago. But it was dry and I remember it in the 90's because we used to have to ford the river and we crossed on the sand then.